Listing of the Claims:

1-44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) A method of serving objects in a computing network, the method comprising:

receiving a request for an object stored on an intelligent storage system, the request being received by a web server, and the intelligent storage system comprising a plurality of storage devices and a control unit configured to determine a mapping for the request to one of the plurality of storage devices;

evaluating the request based on criteria;

if the criteria are met, redirecting the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system; and

if the criteria are not met, serving the stored object via the web server.

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request comprises:

informing a sender of the received request that a subsequent connection to the control unit should be established for serving the stored object when the selected criteria are met.

47. (Previously Presented) The web server according to Claim 46, wherein the subsequent connection bypasses the web server.

48. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 47, wherein informing a sender of the received request that a subsequent connection to the control unit should be established for serving the stored object when the selected criteria are met uses a redirect code of an existing protocol.

49. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 48, wherein the existing protocol is Hypertext Transfer Protocol.

50. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 48, wherein the existing protocol is Wireless Session Protocol.

51. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 48, further comprising requesting establishment of the subsequent connection automatically in response to the redirect code.

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the criteria comprises a size of the stored object.

53. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request based on criteria comprises comparing a size of the stored object to a statically-specified number.

54. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 53, wherein the statically-specified number is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface.

55. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request based on criteria comprises comparing a size of the stored object to a dynamically-determined number.

56. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 55, wherein the dynamically-determined number is determined in view of the current network conditions.

57. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the criteria comprises a naming extension of the stored object.

58. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 57, wherein evaluating the request based on criteria comprises determining whether a naming extension matches an element in a statically-specified set of naming extensions.

59. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 58, wherein the statically-specified set of naming extensions is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface.

60. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request based on criteria comprises determining whether a naming extension matches an element in a set of dynamically-determined set of naming extensions.

61. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 60, wherein the dynamically-determined set of naming extensions is determined in view of current network conditions.

62. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the criteria comprises a name of the stored object.

63. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request based on criteria comprises determining whether an object name matches an element in a statically-specified set of object names.

64. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 63, wherein the statically-specified set of object names is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface.

65. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request based on criteria comprises determining whether an object name matches an element in a set of dynamically-determined set of object names.

66. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 65, wherein the dynamically-determined set of object names is determined in view of current network conditions.

67. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the criteria comprises a content type of the stored object.

68. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request based on criteria comprises determining whether a content type matches an element in a statically-specified set of content types.

69. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 68, wherein the statically-specified set of content types is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface.

70. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request based on criteria comprises determining whether a content type matches an element in a set of dynamically-determined set of content types.

71. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 70, wherein the dynamically-determined set of content types is determined in view of current network conditions.

72. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the criteria comprises using one or more wildcards which operate to match more than one stored object.

73. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the intelligent storage system comprises network-attached storage.

74. (Previously Presented) A method of creating a link to an object, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a particular object in an intelligent storage system comprising a plurality of storage devices and a control unit configured to determine a mapping for the request to one of the plurality of storage devices;

evaluating characteristics of the particular object;

creating a redirect link on one or more web servers from which the particular object is requested if the evaluated characteristics of the particular object meet criteria, the redirect link being configured to redirect the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system; and

creating an object serving link on the one or more the web servers if the evaluated characteristics of the particular object do not meet the criteria.

75. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 74, wherein the redirect link enables returning a direct status code to a requester of the object.

76. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 75, further comprising requesting establishment of a subsequent connection automatically in response to receiving the redirect status code for retrieving the particular object directly from the intelligent storage system.

77. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 75, wherein contents of the redirect link are programmatically created.

78. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 75, wherein the contents of the redirect link are manually created.

79. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 74, wherein the intelligent storage system comprises network-attached storage.

80. (Previously Presented) A method of serving large objects, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a particular object stored on an intelligent storage system comprising a plurality of storage devices and a control unit configured to determine a mapping for the request to one of the plurality of storage devices;

creating a redirect link on one or more web servers from which the particular object may be requested; and

serving the particular object from one of the plurality of storage devices via the control unit of the intelligent storage system using the redirect link or through a selected one of the web servers using the object serving link.

81. (Cancelled)

82. (Previously Presented) A system for serving objects in a computing network, comprising:

an intelligent storage system comprising a plurality of storage devices and a control unit configured to determine a mapping for a request for an object to one of the plurality of storage devices; and

a web server configured to receive the request for an object stored on the intelligent storage system, the web server being configured to evaluate the request based on criteria, and if the criteria are met, to redirect the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system, and if the criteria are not met, to serve the stored object via the web server.

83. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 82, wherein the web server is configured to redirect the request to the control unit by sending information that a subsequent connection should be established for serving the stored object when the selected criteria are met.

84. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 83, wherein the subsequent connection bypasses the web server.

85. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 83, wherein the web server is configured to send a redirect code of an existing protocol that automatically causes establishment of the subsequent connection.

86. (Previously Presented) A system for creating a link to an object, the system comprising:

an intelligent storage system comprising a plurality of storage devices and a control unit configured to determine a mapping for a request for the object to one of the plurality of storage devices;

a web server configured to receive the request for the object and to evaluate the characteristics of the object,

wherein the web server is configured to create a redirect link configured to redirect the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system if the evaluated characteristics of the particular object meet criteria and to create an object serving link on the web server if the evaluated characteristics of the particular object do not meet the criteria.

87. (Previously Presented) A computer program product for serving objects in a computing network, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receive a request for an object stored on an intelligent storage system, the request being received by a web server, and the intelligent storage system comprising a plurality of storage devices and a control unit configured to determine a mapping for the request to one of the plurality of storage devices;

computer readable program code configured to evaluate the request based on criteria;

computer readable program code configured to redirect the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system if the criteria are met; and

computer readable program code configured to serve the stored object via the web server if the criteria are not met.

88. (Previously Presented) The computer program product according to Claim 87, wherein the computer readable program code configured to evaluate criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request further comprises:

computer readable program code configured to inform a sender of the received request that a subsequent connection to the control unit should be established for serving the stored object when the selected criteria are met.

89. (Previously Presented) The computer program product according to Claim 88, wherein the subsequent connection bypasses the web server.

90. (Previously Presented) The computer program product according to Claim 88, wherein the computer readable program code configured to inform a sender of the received request that a subsequent connection to the control unit should be established for serving the stored object when the selected criteria are met uses a redirect code of an existing protocol, and wherein receipt of the redirect code by the sender of the received request automatically causes the sender to request establishment of the subsequent connection.

91. (Previously Presented) The computer program product according to Claim 88, wherein the criteria is selected from one of a size of the stored object, a naming extension of the stored object, a name of the stored object, and a content type of the stored object.

92. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 91, wherein the criteria are statically-specified.

93. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 91, wherein the criteria are dynamically-determined.

94. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 87, wherein the criteria comprise one or more wildcards which operate to match more than one stored object.

95. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 87, wherein the intelligent storage system comprises a network-attached storage.

96. (Previously Presented) A computer program product for creating a link to an object, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receive a request for a particular object in an intelligent storage system comprising a plurality of storage devices and a control unit configured to determine a mapping for the request to one of the plurality of storage devices;

computer readable program code configured to evaluate characteristics of the particular object;

computer readable program code configured to create a redirect link on one or more web servers from which the particular object ~~may be~~ is requested if the evaluated characteristics of the particular object meet criteria, the redirect link being configured to redirect the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system; and

computer readable program code configured to create an object serving link on the one or more web servers if the evaluated characteristics of the particular object do not meet the criteria.

97. (Previously Presented) The computer program product according to Claim 96, wherein the redirect link enables returning a redirect status code to a requester of the object.

98. (Previously Presented) The computer program product according to Claim 97, further comprising computer readable program code configured to request establishment of a subsequent connection automatically in response to receiving the redirect status code for retrieving the particular object directly from the intelligent storage system.

99. (Previously Presented) A computer program product for serving objects, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receive a ~~deployment~~ request for a particular object;

computer readable program code configured to create a redirect link on one or more web servers from which the particular object ~~may be~~ is requested;

computer readable program code configured to create an object serving line on the one or more web servers; and

computer readable program code configured to serve the particular object from one of the plurality of storage devices via the control unit of the intelligent storage system using the redirect link or through a selected one of the web servers using the object serving link.

100-101. (Canceled)

102. (New) A method of serving objects in a computing network, the method comprising:

receiving a request for an object stored on an intelligent storage system, the request being received by a web server, and the intelligent storage system comprising a plurality of storage devices and a control unit configured to determine a mapping for the request to one of

the plurality of storage devices;

evaluating the request based on criteria;

if the criteria are met, redirecting the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system;

if the criteria are not met, serving the stored object via the web server;

wherein evaluating criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request comprises:

informing a sender of the received request that a subsequent connection to the control unit should be established for serving the stored object when the selected criteria are met;

wherein the subsequent connection bypasses the web server;

wherein informing a sender of the received request that a subsequent connection to the control unit should be established for serving the stored object when the selected criteria are met uses a redirect code of an existing protocol;

wherein the existing protocol is Hypertext Transfer Protocol and/or Wireless Session Protocol;

the method further comprising requesting establishment of the subsequent connection automatically in response to the redirect code;

wherein the criteria comprises a size of the stored object;

wherein evaluating the request based on criteria comprises comparing a size of the stored object to a statically-specified number;

wherein the statically-specified number is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface;

wherein evaluating the request based on criteria comprises comparing a size of the stored object to a dynamically-determined number;

wherein the dynamically-determined number is determined in view of the current network conditions;

wherein the criteria comprises a naming extension of the stored object;

wherein evaluating the request based on criteria comprises determining whether a naming extension matches an element in a statically-specified set of naming extensions;

wherein the statically-specified set of naming extensions is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface;

wherein evaluating the request based on criteria comprises determining whether a naming extension matches an element in a set of dynamically-determined set of naming extensions;

wherein the dynamically-determined set of naming extensions is determined in view of current network conditions;

wherein the criteria comprises a name of the stored object;

wherein evaluating the request based on criteria comprises determining whether an object name matches an element in a statically-specified set of object names;

wherein the statically-specified set of object names is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface;

wherein evaluating the request based on criteria comprises determining whether an object name matches an element in a set of dynamically-determined set of object names;

wherein the dynamically-determined set of object names is determined in view of current network conditions;

wherein the criteria comprises a content type of the stored object;

wherein evaluating the request based on criteria comprises determining whether a content type matches an element in a statically-specified set of content types;

wherein the statically-specified set of content types is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface;

wherein evaluating the request based on criteria comprises determining whether a content type matches an element in a set of dynamically-determined set of content types;

wherein the dynamically-determined set of content types is determined in view of current network conditions;

wherein the criteria comprises using one or more wildcards which operate to match more than one stored object; and

wherein the intelligent storage system comprises network-attached storage.